

## TECHNICAL REPORT

### ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY AND NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION OF ST. MARY'S ROAD (S.R. 1002), ORANGE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Prepared by:

Geoffrey B. Henry

Lead Architectural Historian and Principal Investigator

GAI CONSULTANTS, INC.

570 Beatty Road

Monroeville, Pennsylvania 15146

412 • 856-6400

Prepared for:

ORANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

306-F Revere Road

Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278

919 • 732-8181

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## ABSTRACT

An architectural survey, survey update, and National Register evaluation were conducted of a six-mile-long section of St. Mary's Road (S.R. 1002) in Orange County, North Carolina. The project was conducted by GAI Consultants (GAI) for the Orange County Department of Planning (OCDP), the recipient of a Certified Local Government grant from the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources-Division of Archives and History (NCSHPO).

The St. Mary's Road study consisted of four phases: 1) Fourteen previously surveyed historic resources in the St. Mary's Road study area were revisited and their present appearance and condition were noted. Additional historic research was conducted on several of these properties. 2) Six additional historic resources located within the St. Mary's Road study area were surveyed, photographed, mapped, and documented on NCSHPO Historic Structure Short Data Sheets. 3) Based on published histories of the area, research collected on previously surveyed historic resources, and information gathered on the six newly surveyed resources, an historic context for the St. Mary's Road study area was developed. 4) Based on the historic context and on field observations, preliminary boundaries for a proposed St. Mary's Road Rural Historic District were developed. This historic district appears potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, and C.

Recommendations include nominating the proposed St. Mary's Road Rural Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the historic district should be designated an Orange County landmark by the Orange County Historic Preservation Committee.

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Cover Photo	"St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Built 1859, Listed in the National Register of Historic Places", Photographer-Geoffrey Henry, GAI Consultants.
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## 1. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This project could not have been completed without the support and cooperation of numerous people in North Carolina. Special thanks go to Donald Belk, A.I.C.P.--Planner II/Special Projects with the Orange County Department of Planning who directed and managed this project with great skill throughout. Both Catherine Bishir--Architectural Survey Coordinator, and Chandrea Burch--Photography and File Clerk at the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources-Division of Archives and History provided valuable assistance during the background and research phases. Finally, the Orange County Historic Preservation Commission, chaired by Mr. Todd W. Dickinson deserves special credit for initiating this project and providing helpful guidance.

## 2. INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT LOCATION

### INTRODUCTION

In late 1998, the Orange County Department of Planning (OCDP) and the Orange County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) received a Certified Local Government grant from the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources-Division of Archives and History (NCSHPO) to conduct an architectural survey and National Register evaluation of historic resources along St. Mary's Road (S.R. 1002) in Orange County. This survey is the first phase of a Preservation Plan for the St. Mary's Road Corridor, leading to its possible designation as a national and/or local rural historic district. Through competitive bidding, the OCDP awarded the contract for the St. Mary's Road survey project to GAI Consultants, Inc., an architectural/engineering firm headquartered in Monroeville, PA with an office in Boone, NC.

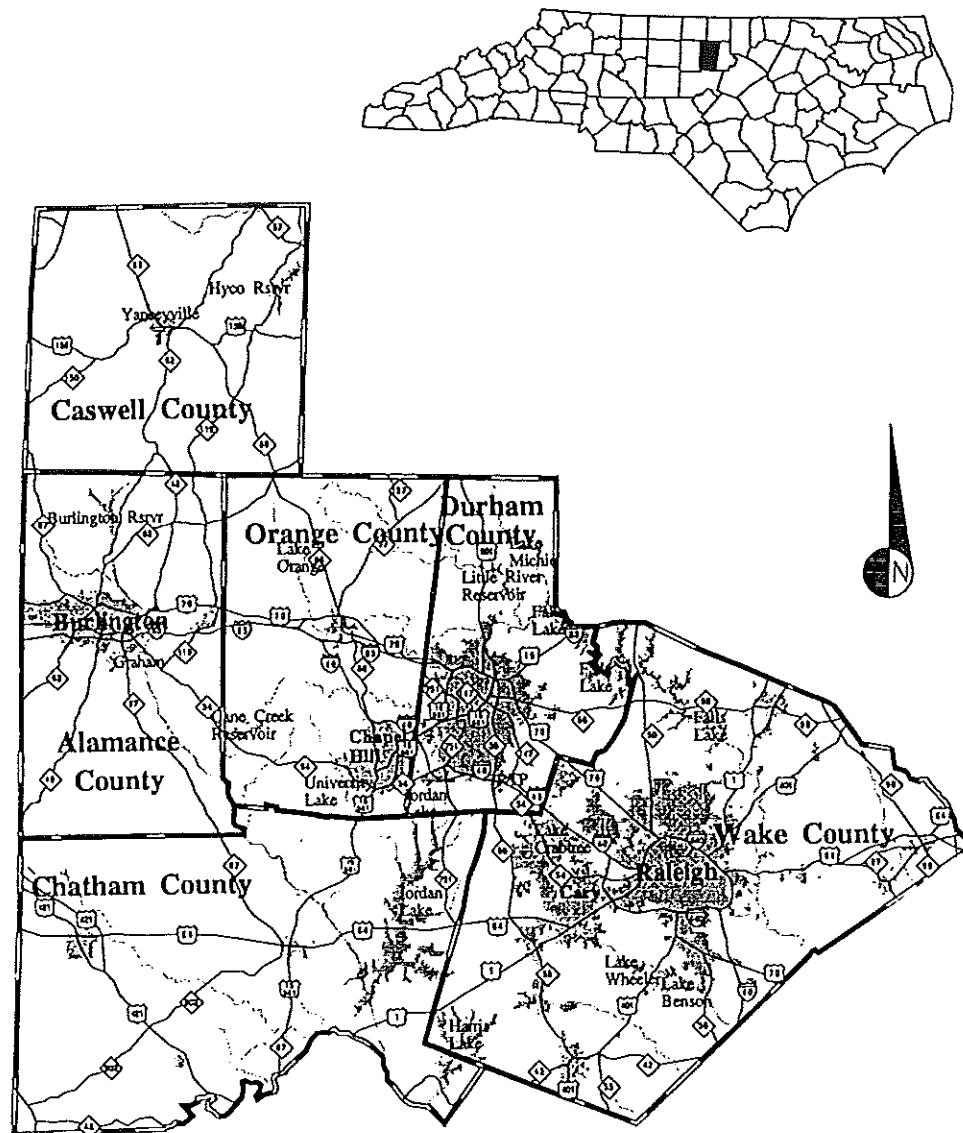
The architectural survey and National Register evaluation of the St. Mary's Road project area were conducted by GAI Lead Architectural Historian Geoffrey Henry, who is based in Charlottesville, Virginia. This report was written by Geoffrey Henry with technical assistance from GAI Editor Lynda Shirley.

By separate contract, the OCDP selected Dr. Linda Stine of Greensboro NC to conduct an archeological survey and assessment of archeological potential for the identical St. Mary's Road project area. Both projects were administered by the OCDP in coordination with the NCSHPO.

### PROJECT LOCATION

The architectural survey and National Register evaluation of historic resources were conducted along an approximately six-mile segment of St. Mary's Road. St. Mary's Road runs northeast from the Orange County seat of Hillsborough, and is located mostly in Eno Township in central Orange County. The study area is bounded by US Route 70 on the west and the Orange County/Durham County line on the east.

Orange County is located in north-central North Carolina, near the heart of the state's Piedmont region. It is bordered on the north by Caswell County, on the east by Durham County, to the south by Chatham County, and to the west by Alamance County. Figures 1 and 2 locate Orange County and the St. Mary's Road study area.



**Figure 1** Orange County, North Carolina

**Source:** *Historic Preservation Element-Orange County Comprehensive Plan (1995)*



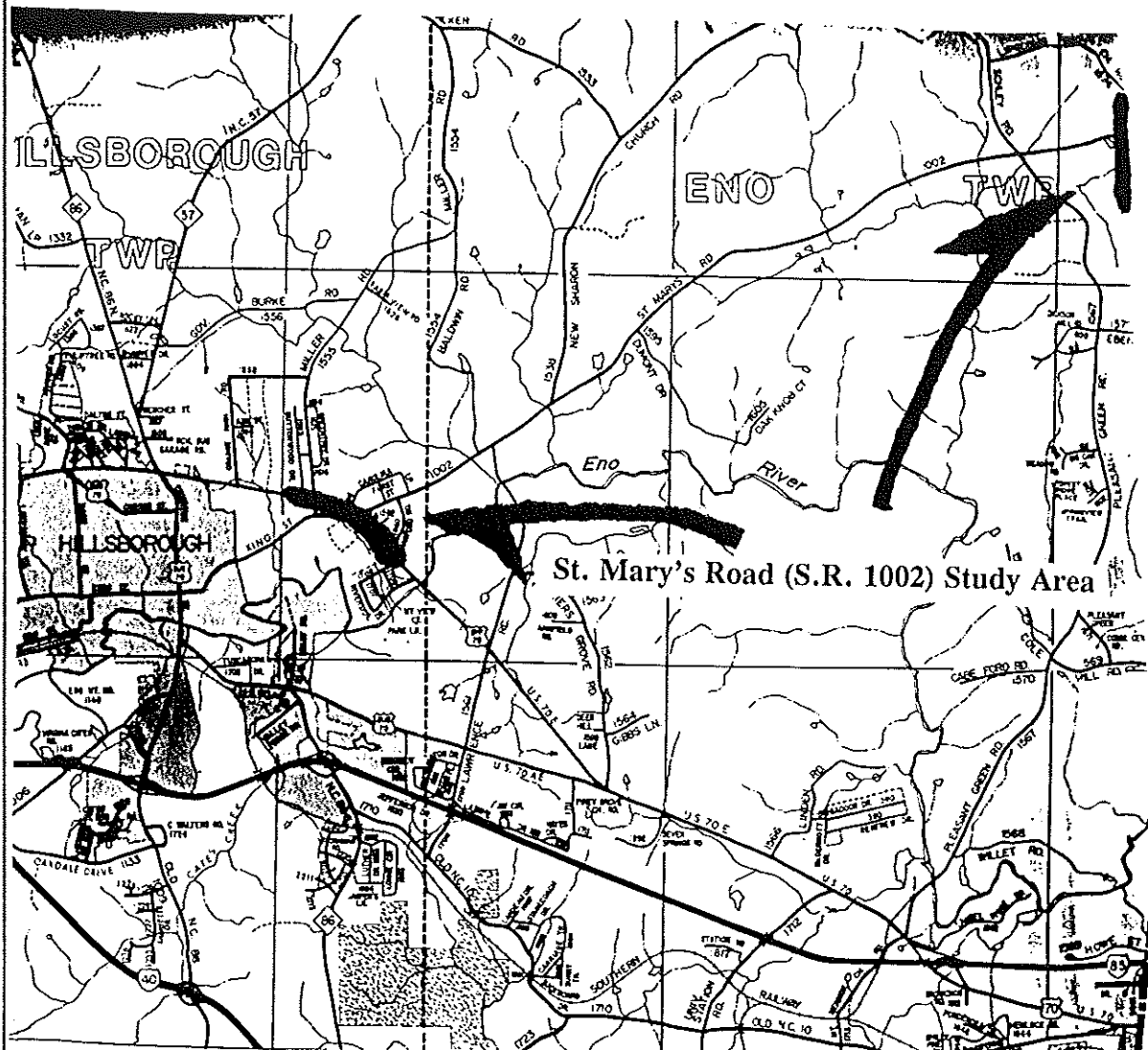


Figure 2 St. Mary's Road (S.R. 1002) Study Area  
Source: North Carolina Division of Highways

### 3. METHODOLOGY

The architectural survey and National Register evaluation of historic resources along St. Mary's Road were conducted in five major phases. These phases consisted of 1) meetings, 2) background research, 3) field survey and data entry, 4) evaluation of the study area for its eligibility as a rural historic district, and 5) presentation of findings.

#### MEETINGS

Three meetings were held in connection with this project. An initial scoping meeting was held May 10, 1999 at the OCDP offices in Hillsborough. Project goals, timetables, and final products were discussed and the background of this project in Orange County was detailed. A drive-through of the project area with OCDP Planner Donald Belk and Project Archeologist Dr. Linda Stine was also a part of this meeting. A mid-point review meeting was held with the Orange County Historic Preservation Commission on July 14, 1999. A final presentation to the Orange County Historic Preservation Commission is scheduled for August 25, 1999.

#### BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Background research for the architectural survey was conducted at several research archives. A review of previously recorded historic resources in the St. Mary's Road project area was conducted at the NCSHPO office in Raleigh. National Register nomination forms for historic resources in the project area were copied at the National Register office in Washington, D.C. Research on the general historic background of the Hillsborough/St. Mary's Road area was conducted at the Orange County Historical Society and the North Carolina Room of the Orange County Library, both in Hillsborough. Land title research on specific properties within the study area was conducted at the Orange County Courthouse. The OCDP provided GAI with copies of an historic context written for Orange County (Mattson 1996) and the *Historic Preservation Element of the Orange County Comprehensive Plan* (Jaeger 1995).

Research sources included historic maps and atlases of the project area, published histories of the Hillsborough area and Orange County, National Register nominations for resources in the project area, the Engstrom survey of historic cemeteries in Orange County (located at the Orange County Library), and informant interviews (usually with property owners). Primary

research sources included will, deed, and land tax records, as well as limited U. S. Census (population and agricultural schedules) research.

#### FIELD SURVEY AND DATA ENTRY

The field survey component of this project consisted of two phases. Fourteen historic resources located within the study area that were previously recorded during a 1992 architectural survey in Orange County were revisited. Architectural and historical information on these resources was updated as needed. Changes or alterations to the resources on the property were noted and the accompanying sketch plan was amended and/or redrawn when applicable. Any major changes to the historic resources were also photographed.

Six additional historic resources, located within the study area but not previously recorded, were surveyed in May 1999. These resources, including the main building and contributing outbuildings, were photographed and were recorded on North Carolina Historic Structure Short Data Sheets. A sketch plan of the complex was included as a part of this documentation. All photographs were processed and labeled according to NCSHPO standards.

#### NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION

One of the expressed goals of this project was to evaluate the archeological and historic resources along St. Mary's Road collectively as a potential rural historic district. This evaluation was based on the information collected on the architectural and archeological resources during the current and previous surveys, and the *Historic Preservation Element of the Orange County Comprehensive Plan*, *National Register Bulletin 30-Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes*, and *Bulletin 21-How to Establish Boundaries for National Register Properties* were also utilized. NCSHPO staff were consulted for their opinions on the eligibility and possible boundaries of this potential historic district. The project area was driven and preliminary boundaries for a potential rural historic district based on the distribution of significant architectural resources were drawn by GAI Architectural Historian Geoffrey Henry in the field. These boundaries were revised later as a result of consultation with the project archeologist Dr. Linda Stine.

## PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

Monthly reports were submitted to inform the OCDP of the project's progress. This final report constitutes the written presentation of findings for this project. A final meeting with the Orange County Preservation Commission on August 25 will constitute the oral presentation of findings and recommendations for further National Register investigations.

#### 4. PREVIOUS SURVEY AND REGISTRATION WORK IN

##### THE ST. MARY'S ROAD AREA

Several recent cultural resource surveys have been conducted in Orange County, resulting in the identification of fourteen historic resources in the St. Mary's Road project area. Of these fourteen historic resources in the project area, two are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and three have been placed on the North Carolina State Study List, an initial step before listing in the National Register.

##### CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS IN THE STUDY AREA

Two comprehensive architectural surveys were conducted in Orange County between 1991 and 1993. Phase One consisted of a comprehensive survey of the unincorporated portion of Chapel Hill Township. Phase Two consisted of an inventory of historic properties in the rest of the unincorporated areas of Orange County. The latter survey resulted in the documentation of 507 historic properties.

Fourteen historic resources were recorded within the St. Mary's Road Study Area during the 1992 survey. Table 1 lists the NCSHPO survey number, common name, address, and date of construction of these previously surveyed historic resources.

##### NATIONAL REGISTER-LISTED PROPERTIES IN THE STUDY AREA

Two historic resources within the St. Mary's Road Study area are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. They are two of only eight properties in Orange County listed in the National Register. These two properties were field-checked during the 1999 survey by GAI and any changes to their appearance were noted and photographed as necessary. These properties are:

- *St. Mary's Episcopal Chapel and Cemetery*-listed in 1978
- *Jacob Jackson Farm (Maple Hill)*-listed in 1994

**Table 1**

**Previously Surveyed Historic Resources in the St. Mary's Road Survey Area**

Name	Survey Number	Address	Approx. Date of Construction
Gosling Log House	OR-652	5915 St. Mary's Road	Early 1800s
St. Mary's School	OR-657	7500 Schley Road	1931
Latta Farm	OR-658	5306 St. Mary's Road	1920s (Outbuildings only)
Hill Farm	OR-659	4508 St. Mary's Road	C. 1780 with c. 1900-1910 additions
Fox Hill Farm	OR-662	200 New Sharon Church Road	C. 1900-1920
Flat Rock A.M.E. Church	OR-665	113 New Sharon Church Road	C. 1915
Caine-Roberts House	OR-673	3828 St. Mary's Road	Last quarter 19th century
Sunnyside (John Berry House)	OR-692	104 Baldwin Road	C. 1848
Bacon Farm	OR-693	4123 St. Mary's Road	C. 1920
Jacob Jackson Farm	OR-710	St. Mary's Road	C. 1820 with numerous additions
Walker Farm and Cemetery	OR-718	Schley Road	C. 1814 with additions
George Washington Walker Farm	OR-1002	5018 St. Mary's Road	C. 1900
Watkins-Jones House	OR-1133	3302 St. Mary's Road	C. 1900-1910
St. Mary's Episcopal Chapel	No survey number assigned by NCSHPO	Schley Road and St. Mary's Road	1859

## NORTH CAROLINA STUDY LIST PROPERTIES

As a result of the 1992-1993 architectural survey of Orange County, 38 historic properties have been placed on the North Carolina State Study List by the NCSHPO. Placement on this list signifies that the properties are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and represents the first step in the nomination and historic designation process. These three properties include:

- *Sunnyside (John Berry House) (OR-692)*
- *Caine-Roberts Farm (OR-673)*
- *Gosling Log House (OR-652)*

## 5. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE ST. MARY'S ROAD AREA

### INTRODUCTION

This historic overview provides a context against which the significance of the historic architectural resources in the St. Mary's Road study area can be evaluated, both individually and collectively as a potential rural historic district. It draws heavily on the two previous historic and contextual studies prepared for Orange County: *Historic Preservation Element-Orange County Comprehensive Plan* (Jaeger 1995) and *History and Architecture of Orange County, North Carolina* (Mattson 1996). This information has been supplemented by historic maps and atlases of the area, as well as individual building and property histories gathered from title searches and interviews with land owners.

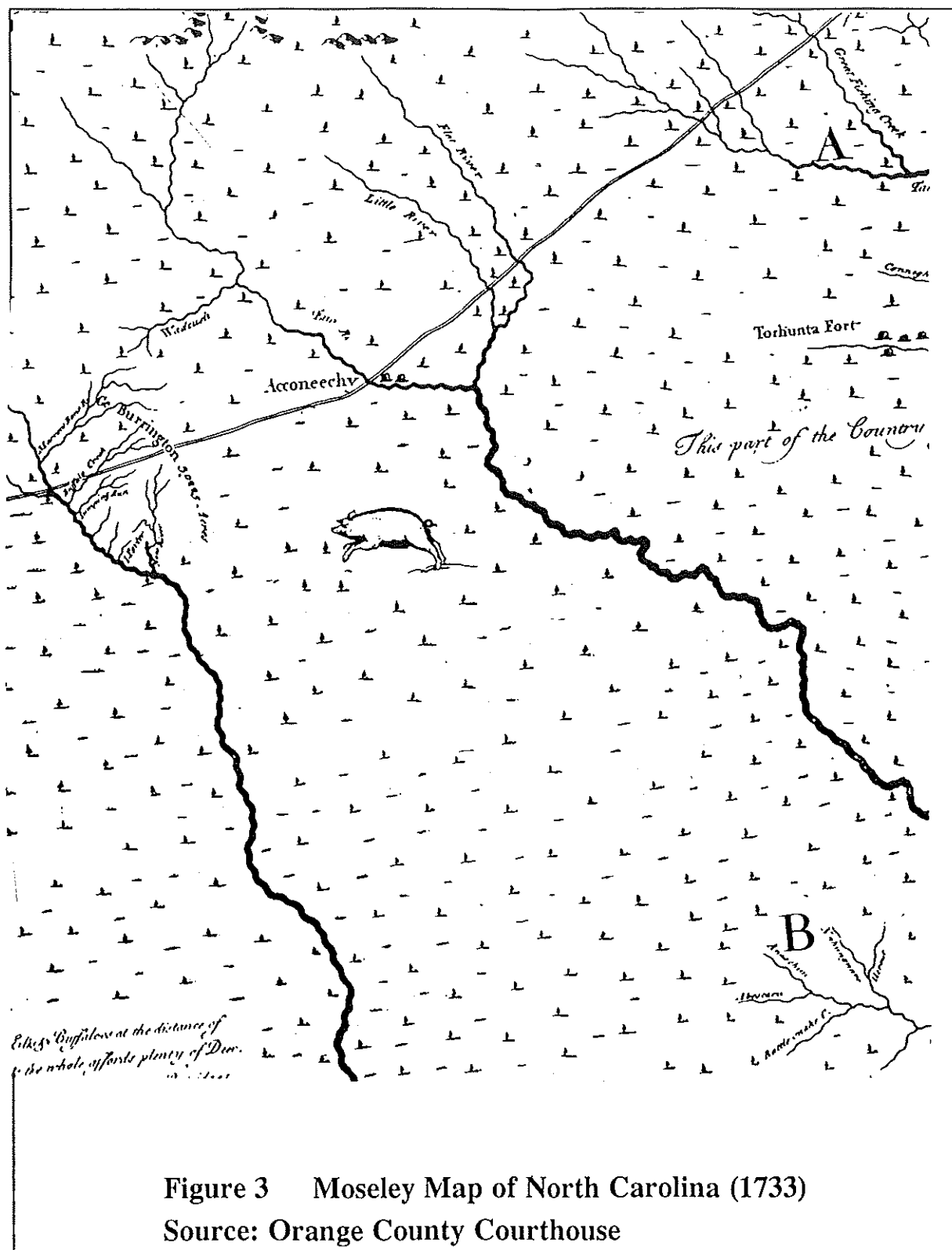
This overview is organized according to the historic time periods in *History and Architecture of Orange County*:

- *Early Settlement to Civil War (1740s to 1865)*
- *Post Civil War to World War II (1865-1946)*

### EARLY SETTLEMENT TO CIVIL WAR

The first permanent settlement of the North Carolina Piedmont did not begin in earnest until the 1740s, encouraged by the establishment of a land grant office in the Granville District in 1746 (Jaeger 1995: 7). Settlers traveled to the Piedmont area from several locations including Pennsylvania and Maryland via the Shenandoah Valley, north from the Cape Fear area, or southwest from central and Tidewater Virginia. The so-called Indian Trading Path led from Petersburg, Virginia through present day Orange County on to Georgia, and was an important route for settlers coming from Virginia to this area. Portions of the present St. Mary's Road follow the route of this path, making it possibly the oldest road in Orange County. The Moseley Map of North Carolina from 1733 is the first to show the route of this path through Orange County (Figure 3). The present county seat of Hillsborough is located near the site marked "Acconeechy" on this map.





The earliest settlers tended to establish their farms and homesteads along the numerous creeks and rivers in the area, as well as to cluster according to ethnic background. Most of the settlers in the St. Mary's Road area were of English, Scottish, or Scots-Irish descent (Jaeger 1995: 7). An Anglican church, St. Mary's Church was built at the eastern end of the St. Mary's Road study area around 1750; it was replaced by the present Gothic-style brick church in 1859 (Bishir 1978: 8.1). Nearby is the church cemetery with some gravestones dating from the early 1820s.

Orange County was created in 1752 from Bladen, Granville, and Johnston Counties, reflecting the growth of population in this area. Orange County originally encompassed a land area of 3,500 square miles. The county's boundaries have been reduced several times since 1752 and did not reach their present configuration until 1880. A 400-acre tract, located where the Indian Trading Path crossed the Eno River, was chosen in 1754 as the county seat (Mattson 1996: 3). First known simply as Orange, the county seat was renamed numerous times before receiving the name Hillsborough in 1766 (Jaeger 1995: 7). Hillsborough is located just to the west of the St. Mary's Road study area.

The average land holding in Orange County was typically small, with nearly 75 percent of the county's property owners holding no more than 500 acres. Slave ownership was not prevalent, with slaves making up less than 20 percent of Orange County's population in 1790. Most farmers in Orange County in the eighteenth century relied on subsistence farming, although a few grew corn, wheat, and tobacco for export. Most crops destined for sale in Petersburg or Virginia traveled along the Indian Trading Path. This was virtually the only serviceable road in this area of the county; transportation within the county was often by water or along dirt paths connecting farmsteads with mills, churches, and ferry crossings (Mattson 1996: 5).

Grist mills were among the first commercial enterprises in Orange County and signaled the beginning of more established settlement patterns. Synott's Mill was active on the Eno River, just outside the St. Mary's Road study area before 1752 (Mattson 1996: 7). John Collett's map of North Carolina in 1770 depicted several mills along the Eno, including Cain's Mill, Few's Mill, and Sinott's Mill, all near Hillsborough and the St. Mary's Road study area (Figure 4). The definitive location and/or excavation of these mill sites awaits further archeological study of the Eno River area east of Hillsborough.

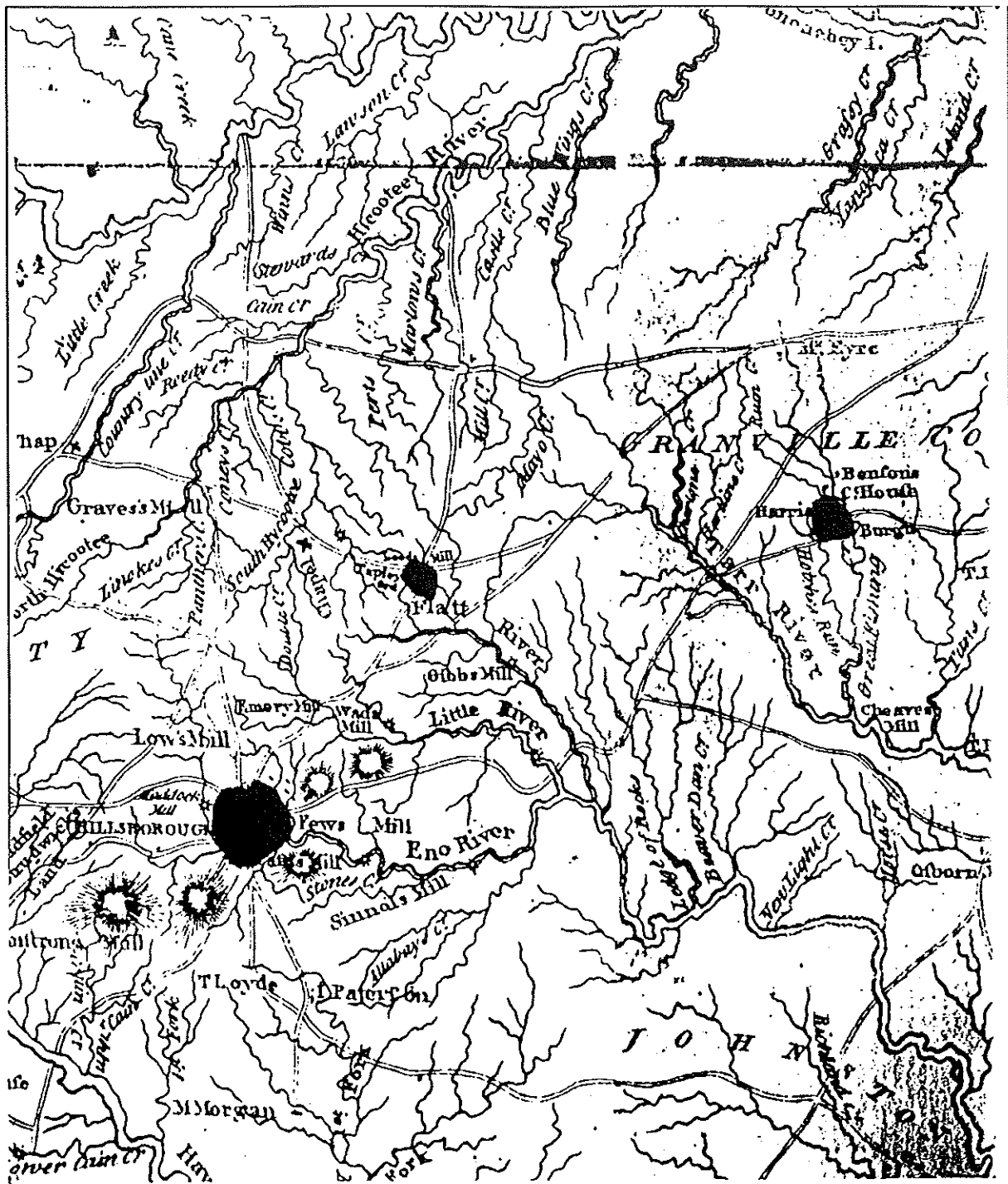


Figure 4 John Collett's Map of North Carolina (1770)  
 Source: Orange County Courthouse, Map Collection

The domestic architecture of Orange County in the mid and late eighteenth century typically consisted of simple log or frame buildings, with brick used in only exceptional cases. Log houses usually consisted of one pen, divided into two unequally sized rooms with a separate sleeping loft in the attic. Frame houses also usually had two main rooms on the first floor.

Few if any buildings from the eighteenth century have survived in the St. Mary's Road study area. Most settlement occurred along the Eno River and tributary creeks to the south, rather than along a roadway, such as the Indian Trading Path. A frame portion of the main house at the **Hill Farm (OR-659)** may date from the 1780s, however. It features a stone foundation and double shouldered brick chimney nearly eight feet wide.

The post Revolutionary Period witnessed a general out-migration from Orange County, as Quakers, Loyalists, and land-poor younger sons moved elsewhere in the state and country. The economy remained overwhelmingly agricultural during the late eighteenth and first half of the nineteenth century centuries, with corn and wheat the major crops grown. The number of medium and large-scale farms gradually increased during the nineteenth century. Slave holding remained relatively rare, however, with only thirty percent of the county's free population owning slaves on the eve of the Civil War in 1860 (Mattson 1996: 10).

Although the Indian Trading Path, by then known as the Oxford Road, continued to serve as the main conduit for transporting agricultural produce to market, Orange County was hampered by its poor transportation system. It was not until 1850 that the North Carolina Railroad began construction of a railroad line between Goldsboro and Charlotte by way of Hillsborough (Jaeger 1995: 10).

Examples of domestic architecture from the first half of the nineteenth century in the St. Mary's Road study area are more common than from earlier periods. The heavy-timber framed rear section of the **Walker House (OR-718)** is reputed to date from 1814. Nearby is the Walker family grave yard, with the earliest headstone belonging to the family patriarch Robert Walker (1767-1826) who emigrated to North Carolina from England by way of Canada. The foundations of an early kitchen are also on the property.

At the **Jacob Jackson Farm (OR-710)(NR)** a single-pen, hewn-log house likely constructed in 1810 was joined to a two-story, weatherboarded log Federal farmhouse built as a separate

structure. A one-and-one-half-story Greek Revival-style house was joined to the east end of the latter house in the 1840s. The Gosling Log House (OR-652) is a one-story, single-pen, gable-roofed log house, built before 1825, with a large gable-end stone chimney. On the Charles Thompson Farm (OR-1450) is a deteriorating one-story, single-pen log house, with a later frame addition on the front. Not nearly as well-maintained as the Gosling House, this house no longer possesses its original interior woodwork.

**Sunnyside (John Berry House)(OR-692)** was the home of architect and statesman John Berry and is the most significant ante-bellum home in the St. Mary's Road study area. John Berry (1798-1870) was born in Hillsborough and received his training from brick mason Samuel Hancock. Berry designed and built the Orange County Courthouse in Hillsborough in 1846. With details derived from Asher Benjamin's building manuals, it is one of the most significant Greek Revival-style structures in the state. Berry also built several churches and houses in Hillsborough, as well as buildings in Oxford, Salisbury, and Chapel Hill.

Berry's own house, built east of Hillsborough sometime around 1848, contains a wealth of interior woodwork, again derived from Asher Benjamin's pattern books. Berry, who served in the North Carolina legislature before and during the Civil War, was also one of the county's largest slave holders, owning 45 slaves, according to the 1860 census (Kenzer 1987: 103). Remarkably, there are no historic outbuildings or slave dwellings known to stand on this property today. Berry also owned a grist mill which operated on the creek which now forms the western boundary of the present property. Its foundations lie outside the St. Mary's Road study area.

It is not known whether Berry had a hand in the design of St. Mary's Episcopal Chapel, which was built at the east end of the St. Mary's Road study area in 1859. A well-preserved example of brick Gothic Revival-style architecture, the chapel is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. (St. Mary's church is the source of the present name for the old Indian Trading Path, later known as the Oxford Road).

#### POST CIVIL WAR TO WORLD WAR II (1865-1945)

The most immediate change in Orange County's social, economic, and political makeup after the war was the emancipation of its nearly 6,000 slaves. Relatively little historical research has been conducted on Orange County's black population. It is known that former slaves

bought property on or around their former masters' plantations in Orange County (Kenzer 1987: 104). Some even moved from other states to Orange County and bought farms (Mattson 1996: 38). Two small historically black settlements grew up in the St. Mary's Road study area after the war: near the Lipscomb Baptist Church off of Schley Road and around the **Flat Rock Baptist Church (OR-665)** at the corner of St. Mary's and New Sharon Church Roads. The latter congregation was organized in 1915 and the present one-story vernacular Gothic Revival-style church was built soon thereafter. A "colored school" reputedly stood near the present **St. Mary's School (OR-657)**.

The other important change in Orange County's agricultural economy after the Civil War was the move away from purely subsistence farming to a more market driven outlook. Agricultural journals printed just before the outbreak of war had urged county farmers to raise their sights beyond subsistence agriculture and to forsake traditional ways for scientific techniques that boosted yields (Mattson 1996: 19). Both wheat and tobacco production increased markedly after the war, although tobacco was not generally grown in the St. Mary's Road study area. The Turner family, who lived at the **Jacob Jackson Farm (OR-710)(NR)** on St. Mary's Road grew 600 bushels of wheat and 375 bushels of corn in 1870 (Hollandsworth 1994: 8.7). The farm did well enough, that when Louisa Turner sold 140 acres of the farm and house to her brother-in-law Israel Turner in 1877, it brought a good price of \$10, 500 (Hollandsworth 1994 8.8).

Domestic architecture in Orange County and the St. Mary's Road area took on a more substantial and prosperous appearance after the Reconstruction period, as well. The proliferation of farm houses and their associated agricultural outbuildings resulted from the emergence of a more prosperous market economy, as well as the availability of machine-sawn lumber and architectural ornament.

On the most traditional level, the gable-roofed, one-room-deep frame house with a rear kitchen ell remained the most popular domestic house form in Orange County until around 1910. The house at **Fox Hill Farm (OR-662)**, and the **Caine-Roberts House (OR-673)** both date from the 1880-1900 period and are typical of this period. A house on the north side of St. Mary's Road. (**OR-1451**) is a two-story, four-bay gable-roofed frame house with a center chimney with two front doors leading to two separate rooms.

“The most common modification to the familiar gable-roofed rectangle was the addition of a third gable prominently centered over the facade . . . rooted in the Gothic style and introduced to the American public through Andrew Jackson Downing’s successful *Cottage Residences*” (Mattson 1996: 50). (These houses are often called “Triple A” houses). Large and small variations of this house are seen throughout Orange County in the last half of the nineteenth century, including the St. Mary’s Road study area. The front portion of the **Hill Farm (OR-659)** was built in the late nineteenth century. Its artistic focus is the front cross gable with its decorative shingles and sawnwork and an elaborate cornice brackets with a star motif. A simpler example of this house type is seen at the **Watkins-Jones House (OR-1133)**. Both houses retain the typical center-hall plan.

By the early twentieth century, Orange County’s agricultural economy was undergoing several important changes. Although a few farmers still farmed on the subsistence level, and even more grew cash crops for sale, an increasing number of farmers were shifting to dairy farming and/or raising chickens. As a result, several farms in the St. Mary’s Road area saw a wholesale make over in their physical appearance. In the case of dairy farms, gambrel-roofed dairy barns, feed silos, and one-story milk cooling parlors were built. Chicken farms typically contained several cinder-block chicken houses as well as feed sheds. Most of these facilities tended to follow standardized designs and many were probably built according to plans and specifications provided by the Agricultural Extension Service or the Agricultural Experiment Station at NC State (Mattson 1996: 57).

The farm buildings standing on the **George Washington Walker Farm (OR-1002)** dramatically illustrate this change in Orange County’s agricultural economy. The farm was established around 1900 on nearly 75 acres on both sides of St. Mary’s Road. A one-story residence and several frame barns date from the earliest period of the farm’s history.

Around 1920, the Walker family moved from cereal grain production to raising dairy cattle. The large gambrel-roofed dairy barn, milking parlors, and smaller feed barns date from this period. In the late 1930s, the Walker farm operations shifted to raising chickens. Several cinder block chicken houses were built in 1938. The farm’s focus changed again in the 1960s, and it is now operated as a beef cattle farm.

The owners of the **Bacon Farm (OR-693)** switched to dairy farming after World War I. As a result, a large gambrel-roofed dairy barn and two frame milking parlors were built to the rear of the main house. These were in addition to the small collection of domestic outbuildings already standing on the farm.

The landscape of the St. Mary's Road area changed in other ways during the first half of the twentieth century. The Central Highway (US Route 70) was built through Hillsborough to the west in the years after the passage of the Highway Act of 1921. Local resident Harriet Morehead Berry, who resided at **Sunnyside (OR-692)** spearheaded the statewide agitation for paved farm-to-market roads and was known as the "Mother of Good Roads" (Mattson 1996:44). St. Mary's Road was paved and straightened in sections around 1940, although many side roads remained (and still remain) unimproved.

With better transportation, there was less need for the one-room schools that typically served small isolated communities. Schools were consolidated during this period and several new and handsome brick school houses were constructed. **St. Mary's School (OR-657)** was built in 1931 to replace a one-room log school built at this site adjacent to St. Mary's Chapel in the 1840s. This one-story, gable-roofed brick school house typifies the Colonial Revival style and has such features as molded brick cornices, classical pilasters flanking the central door, and the lunette window in the front gable.

The main residence on the Bacon property was also remodeled at this time. The style chosen was the nationally popular Bungalow style. This style was characterized by wide, overhanging roof eaves that usually sheltered a wide front porch with tapered posts or columns. Most Bungalow-style houses were one-and-one-half stories tall with a shed-roofed dormer window and a central doorway on the front facade. The house at **4218 St. Mary's Road (OR-1452)** was built around 1920 in the Bungalow style. It is a one-and-one half-story, gable-roofed frame house and features typically wide eaves as well as exterior gable-end stone chimneys and a wrap-around porch. Also typical of this style are the multi-pane upper sash of the double hung windows.

Steady growth has brought dramatic changes to parts of Orange County since World War II. Located in the rapidly growing Piedmont Crescent region, Orange County experienced a population increase of nearly 118 per cent between 1960 and 1990. In addition to population



growth, Orange County is experiencing a second significant trend--the loss of farmland. Between 1959 and 1989 the percentage of land in farms declined from 70 percent to 48 percent. Although agriculture remains important economically as well as culturally, many farms are unoccupied and deteriorating. The future viability of tobacco in the Piedmont is uncertain, although this does not affect the St. Mary's Road area specifically. The most important change in the area's agricultural economy is the apparent proliferation of horse farms and other equestrian-related activities. The St. Mary's Road area, with its mix of nineteenth and early-twentieth century farmsteads, forested hills, and lush horse farms, continues to be a picturesque landscape, but it is a landscape increasingly threatened.

## **6. SURVEY FINDINGS**

As a result of the survey conducted in 1999 by GAI, six additional historic structures were identified in the St. Mary's Road study area. Most of these had previously been noted on the field maps of the 1992-1993 Orange County Survey, but had not been fully documented. The buildings were photographed and researched, and the information entered on the North Carolina Historic Structure Short Data Sheet. The following is a summary of the six historic structures surveyed.

### **OR-1450**

#### **Webb Farm**

#### **3120 St. Mary's Road**

The Webb Farm contains an early nineteenth-century, one-story, single-pen, gable-roofed log house. The logs are exposed, have saddle notches, and are chinked with mud and stones. There is a shouldered fieldstone chimney with brick stack on the west elevation. A two-story, gable-roofed frame house was built on the front of the log section in the late nineteenth century. It features a one-story, hip-roofed front porch and a one-story rear ell. There is no interior connection between the log and frame sections of this house. The log/frame house is vacant and in deteriorating condition. There are no other historic buildings on the property.

### **OR-1451**

#### **Dunlop House**

#### **3600 St. Mary's Road**

The main house on the Dunlop property appears to date from the antebellum period. It is a two-story, four-bay, gable-roofed frame house with a central cross gable and center chimney. There are two doors on the south (front) facade leading to two separate rooms. The interior features a paneled wainscot, Greek Revival mantels, and an enclosed winder stair on the northwest corner. The house recently has been re-sided and has a large two story gable-roofed modern addition with two-story porch on the rear. Most of the windows are not original. A shed-roofed frame garage dates from the early 1920s.

**OR-1452****Freeland House****4218 St. Mary's Road**

This property contains a fairly compact and intact collection of farm buildings and a main residence, all constructed around 1910-1920 on a small hill overlooking St. Mary's Road. The main house is a one-and-one-half-story, three-bay, gable-roofed, frame Triple A house with an exterior-end chimney. The one-story hip-roofed front porch wraps around both gable ends. Also on the property are two garages and three sheds, including one tractor shed. All are in good condition.

**OR-1453****Jacobs House****4416 St. Mary's Road**

The Jacobs property features a main residence, three barns and a silo. The house is a two-story, three-bay, gable-roofed frame Triple A structure dating from the 1890s. The one-story, hip-roofed front porch has square posts. There is a two-story, three-bay, gable-roofed rear wing with another smaller porch. The house is trimmed with a wide cornice with gable-end returns. All buildings are in good condition, although the main house has been covered with vinyl siding.

**OR-1454****Hudson House****3814 St. Mary's Road**

The Hudson property is situated on the north side of St. Mary's Road. There is a residence built in the 1920s and a metal-sided barn on the property. The house is a one-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed, classic Bungalow-style frame house with a low pitched roof with bracketed eaves that overhang to shelter a front porch. There is a central gable-roofed dormer window on the front elevation. Some windows have multi-pane upper sash. The house has been covered with aluminum siding and metal posts have replaced the original wooden porch posts.

**OR-1455**

**Walker House**

**Corner St. Mary's Road (S.R. 1002) and SR 1548**

The Walker House property contains a deteriorated main house, dating from the early 1900s, and a fairly intact frame barn, as well as a modern concrete-block shed. The main house is a one-and-one-half-story, three-bay, gable-roofed structure with a central cross gable. The one-story, hip-roofed front porch is partially collapsed, but originally had chamfered posts. There is a three-bay, gable-roofed, rear ell with a shed-roofed porch on the east.

## 7. EVALUATION FOR NATIONAL REGISTER POTENTIAL

### INTRODUCTION

According to National Register Bulletin 30-*Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes*, a rural historic landscape is "a geographic area that historically has been used by people, or shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention, and that possesses a significant concentration, linkage or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings, and structures, roads and waterways, and natural features." Rural historic landscapes are most commonly listed in the National Register as historic districts.

### SIGNIFICANCE AND INTEGRITY OF THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

The National Register only lists those districts that satisfy the criteria for both significance and integrity. The significance of an historic district is assessed against the historic context established for the surrounding region, county, or state. The St. Mary's Road area has long been recognized as an historically important area in Orange County. Parts of the road may follow the route of the Colonial-era Indian Trading Path. The study area contains two properties already listed in the National Register and three additional properties have been placed on the North Carolina State Study List. At least twenty farmsteads, churches, schools, and individual houses have been surveyed and recorded along the six-mile long segment between US Route 70 and the Durham County line. They represent the overwhelming agricultural tradition of this area of Orange County through the late eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries.

The integrity of a potential historic district carries equal weight with its significance in assessing its eligibility for listing in the National Register. Many of the individual historic buildings, structures, and cemeteries in the study area retain a good to excellent level of integrity. The surrounding landscape, however, shows evidence of sustained change and development over the last twenty years. On balance, much of the historic landscape, including farm land, picturesque views of mountains and forests, and St. Mary's Road itself still remain relatively unaltered. Thus, the St. Mary's Road study area has retained sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register.

The important steps in identifying the rural landscape of the St. Mary's Road Study Area have been accomplished. Historic research on many of the properties in the study area has been conducted and an historic context for both Orange County and the St. Mary's Road study area have been written. Historic resources within the study area have been inventoried and documented.

#### APPLYING THE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA TO THE ST. MARY'S ROAD STUDY AREA

The next step is to evaluate the landscape's eligibility for listing in the National Register as a rural historic district. Based on both field observations and historic research, the St. Mary's Road study area is potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under three National Register Criteria. It is eligible for listing under Criterion A based on the historic significance of the land use, transportation, and economic patterns it has retained. The study area contains one of the most historically significant Colonial era roads in Orange County as well as farms that display the long history of varied agricultural pursuits in Orange County. Farms in the St. Mary's Road area have gone from subsistence to market-based over three centuries and have encompassed a wide variety of products including tobacco, cereal grains, and dairy cattle.

The St Mary's Road study area is potentially eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion B. The area contains buildings and structures related to individuals significant both in the immediate community and in Orange County. These include Sunnyside, the home of architect/statesman John Berry, and early settler Robert Walker.

The St. Mary's Road study area is potentially eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C for its collection of resources embodying distinctive architectural types and styles, as well as buildings by recognized master craftsmen. Two buildings in the study area-- St. Mary's Church and the Jacob Jackson Farm--have already been listed in the National Register under this Criterion and three additional resources--the Gosling Log House, the Caine-Roberts House, and Sunnyside--have been placed on the North Carolina State Study List based on Criterion C. Most of the other buildings in the study area retain a fair to excellent level of integrity.

## BOUNDARIES OF THE POTENTIAL ST. MARY'S ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT

Preliminary boundaries for a potential St. Mary's Road historic district were developed based on field observations, historic research, and using the guidelines contained in National Register Bulletin 30. The proposed district contains the greatest concentration of historic resources and common landscape characteristics along St. Mary's Road. Natural boundaries have been utilized, such as the creek at the western edge of the study area, as well as man-made boundaries, such as Schley Road on the east and several concentrations of modern housing. Natural features, such as forested hillsides, stands of hardwoods, and historic pasture land, have also been included within the proposed boundaries. These boundaries are shown on Figure 5.

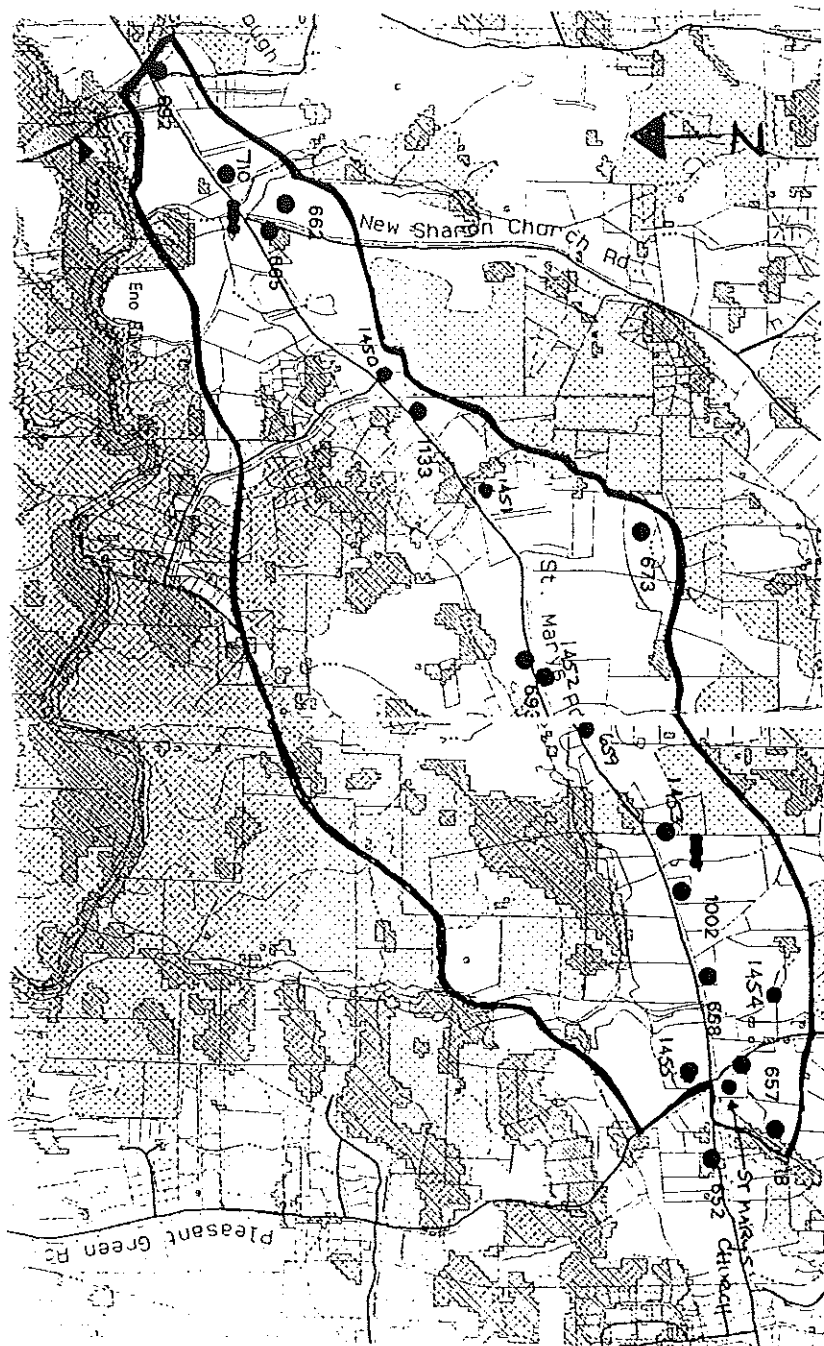


Figure 5 Proposed Boundaries for a St. Mary's Road Rural Historic District



## 8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### CONCLUSIONS

An architectural survey, survey update, and National Register evaluation were conducted of a six-mile-long section of St. Mary's Road (S.R. 1002) in Orange County, North Carolina. The project was conducted by GAI Consultants (GAI) for the Orange County Department of Planning (OCDP) and the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources-Division of Archives and History (NCSHPO).

The St. Mary's Road study consisted of four phases. Fourteen previously surveyed historic resources in the St. Mary's Road study area were revisited and their present appearance and condition were noted. Additional historic research was conducted on several of these properties. Six historic resources located within the study area were surveyed, photographed, mapped, and documented on NCSHPO Historic Structure Short Data Sheets. Based on published histories of the area, research collected on previously surveyed historic resources, and information gathered on the six newly surveyed resources, an historic context for the St. Mary's Road study area was developed.

Based on the historic context and on field observations, preliminary boundaries for a proposed St. Mary's Road Rural Historic District were developed. This historic district appears potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, and C.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Orange County Department of Planning should actively pursue the nomination of the St. Mary's Road Historic District to the National Register and/or as an Orange County landmark.
- The landmark nomination report/National Register nomination should incorporate the findings of both the archeological and architectural survey of the St. Mary's Road study area.
- Orange County should apply for funds under the Certified Local Government program to hire a consultant to prepare the nomination to the local and/or national registers.

- Orange County and the Historic Preservation Commission should engage in a concerted educational campaign to inform landowners within the proposed historic district of the ramifications and benefits of historic district designation.

## REFERENCES CITED

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1978      *St. Mary's Chapel National Register Nomination.*

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Gohdes-Baten, Betsy

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Jaeger Company

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Kinzer, Robert

1987      *Kinship and Neighborhood in a Southern Community: Orange County, North Carolina, 1849-1881.* Knoxville, University of Tennessee Press, 1987.

Mattson, Richard L.

1996      *History and Architecture of Orange County, North Carolina.* Orange County Department of Planning, Hillsborough, NC.

US Department of the Interior

1988      *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes .* National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

---

## APPENDIX A

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC St. Mary's Chapel

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER NE corner of junction of SR 1002 and SR 1648

CITY, TOWN

Hillsborough

☒ VICINITY OF

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

37

COUNTY

Orange

CODE

135

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☒ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Trustees of the Diocese of North Carolina

(see continuation  
sheet)

STREET &amp; NUMBER

201 St. Alban's Drive

CITY, TOWN

Raleigh

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina

27609

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Orange County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Hillsborough

STATE

North Carolina

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Mary's Chapel is located on a gentle hill site in a rolling rural section of Piedmont Orange County, its isolated agrarian setting disturbed only by the presence of a nearby school complex. Down the hill, within sight of the church, is the walled cemetery, originally the site of the eighteenth century predecessor of the chapel, now filled with graves and shaded by old trees. The wall dates from the 1830s.

The chapel is a small, unpretentious, but carefully finished brick structure in the Gothic Revival style. Although simple Gothic Revival country churches are relatively common in the state, this is one of the few rural brick examples. The simplicity and small scale of the church, together with the substantialness of its materials and consistency of Gothic detail contribute to its pastoral charm, which is highly evocative of the origins of the Gothic chapel mode.

The rectangular building is three bays wide and three longer bays deep, with the entrance in the main gable end. To the rear is a gable-roof apse and on the south side of it, at right angles to it, a gable roof-extension of similar scale, an entrance through the small sacristy to the church. Walls are of locally made brick, typically measuring about 2 3/4 inches by 8 inches. They are laid in common bond with Flemish variation. The wall surfaces are enlivened in highly plastic fashion: the bays are separated by brick buttresses, and within each bay, a recessed lancet panel framed by soldiers contains the pointed-arched window or door opening. The exterior detail is otherwise quite simple: the roofline is quiet, with a narrow molded cornice flush with the wall, which returns slightly into the gable ends--a treatment used on the main block and on the rear extensions. Narrow slits occur in the foundation wall. The gable end carries a wooden cross.

Windows are filled with double-hung Gothic sash, with sixteen-over-sixteen sash surmounted by simple tracery. The chancel window in the apse is a more ambitious double Gothic one. The front door is a double one with six horizontal panels per leaf, and a pair of half-arched panels fill the tympanum. The rear side door is similarly treated but is a single leaf and narrower.

The interior, which is light and spacious, continues the simplicity and essential Gothic character of the exterior. It is one large uninterrupted space except for the apse, which is framed by a broad pointed arch, and the small sacristy to the side of it. Walls are plastered, and the dark, handsome wooden ceiling, open to the gable shape of the roof, is articulated with a simple geometry of intersecting timbers, rather slender, which cross at a kingpost at the apex. The window frames and low, sheathed wainscot are also of dark wood, producing a strong and vivid impact against the white plaster. The finish, along with the simple furnishings, are all original or in character with the original, creating an interior evocative of the original appearance of the antebellum church.

Pews are very plain wooden ones, with gracefully curved sides and slatted backs. They are arranged flanking a central aisle, with a few rows facing inward to create the choir. The altar rail is a simple sawn Gothic arcade, and the pulpit is equally unpretentious, with rectangular elements and simple moldings. A folding chair with Gothic finial complements the furnishings. A wonderful feature of the interior is the stove, perhaps original--labeled Forest Rose No. 7, patented 1855. It is a metal stove of

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ornate design featuring cabriole-like legs and high relief decoration with volutes and full-blown roses.

At present the chapel is being renovated by a committee long devoted to the preservation of the building. Its intention is to repair as needed while preserving the essential and original elements of the chapel.

Footnote

<sup>1</sup>Hillsborough Recorder, October 14, 1836, "The Commissioners let bids for building of a stone wall around graveyard at St. Mary's," (Browning, "Information," see section 8).

NOTE: THE OLD STOVE IS NO LONGER THERE. THE CHURCH'S "ISOLATED AFRICAN SETTING" IS COMPROMISED BY THE LARGE METAL + BRICK SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND A PARKING LOT TO THE NORTH.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 2

PAGE 1

Other owners:

St. Mary's Chapel Restoration Committee  
c/o H. C. Browning  
Route 1  
Hillsborough, NC 27278

Ms. Polly C. Roberts  
P. O. Box 1543  
Gainesville, GA 30501



# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1858-1859

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Mary's Chapel is a small, rural Gothic Revival church whose unpretentious, pastoral character and unaltered Gothic detail contribute to its charm. It is the successor to one of Orange County's three eighteenth century Anglican churches, which stood nearby. The chapel, built in 1859 for a small parish, served the local plantation community; in recent years it has been the scene of an annual homecoming, and its restoration is underway.

Criteria assessment: A-association with development of rural Anglican and Episcopal churches in relatively remote rural areas.  
C-embodies the distinctive character of antebellum, vernacular Gothic Revival architecture.

St. Mary's is an Episcopal chapel located approximately six miles northeast of Hillsborough in rural Orange County. The congregation was established by the Church of England sometime in the late 1750s by the Reverend George Micklejohn. St. Mary's was one of three Anglican churches in pre-Revolutionary Orange County.

Following the Revolution, the Church of England was prostrate in North Carolina, and St. Mary's was inactive. The Anglican Church was slowly reorganized as the Protestant Episcopal Church. The Diocese of North Carolina was established in 1817, with three clergymen and fewer than 200 communicants. St. Mary's was admitted to the convention in 1819. It had a small congregation, and was forced to share a rector with the larger St. Matthew's Church of Hillsborough. A main road leading east out of Hillsborough takes its name from the chapel. An examination of its reports to the annual conventions of the Diocese reveals that, in the two decades preceding the Civil War, St. Mary's usually had between five and seven communicants.

The original church building was replaced by the present chapel in 1859 on a 9 9/16 acre tract purchased from Ellen Bain, adjacent to the original tract. The church was consecrated November 25, 1859 by Bishop Thomas Atkinson. The congregation reported that the "neat, brick church" had cost \$2,000. The disruption caused by the Civil War was so severe that in 1868 St. Mary's was declared to be no longer entitled to representation in the annual convention of the Diocese due to failure to maintain its organization.

This status remained unchanged until 1888 when St. Mary's was reorganized as a mission. The Reverend Joseph Murphy reported to the convention that St. Mary's was composed of ten families and held services once a month. He also reported that a new roof had been put on the chapel. The size of the congregation grew gradually reaching a peak of 33 communicants in 1904. However, the church was never prosperous. Reverend

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Murphy was forced to make his weekly trip from Hillsborough, a trip which he stated "in wet weather . . . can hardly be made in less than two hours." He also reported<sup>10</sup> that several of the families in the church lived as far as twelve miles from the chapel. St. Mary's existed to serve these rural families who could not be expected to make the trip into Hillsborough. As transportation facilities improved in the twentieth century, St. Mary's gradually lost its importance. Regular services were stopped in the early 1930s. A once a year "homecoming" service is conducted at St. Mary's on the third Sunday in August.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Hugh Lefler and Paul Wager (ed.), Orange County, 1752-1952 (Chapel Hill, n.p., 1952), p. 290, 293; Joseph Blount Cheshire (ed.), Sketches of Church History in North Carolina (Wilmington, William L. DeRosset, Jr., 1892), pp. 270-271, hereinafter cited as Cheshire, Sketches of Church History.

<sup>2</sup> Cheshire, Sketches of Church History, pp. 243-246, 267; Hugh Conway Browning (compiler), Information Relating to St. Mary's Chapel (unpublished), second report, p. 7. hereinafter cited as Browning, Information.

<sup>3</sup> Journal of the Annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in North Carolina (various publishers), 1842, p. 29; 1845, p. 23; 1846, p. 12; 1847, p. 16; 1849, p. 24; 1852, p. 28; 1857, p. 35; 1858, p. 36; hereinafter cited as Journal of the Episcopal Church, with appropriate year.

<sup>4</sup> Orange County Deeds, Vol 52, p. 136.

<sup>5</sup> St. Mary's Chapel Parish Records, 1839-1880, pp. 38-39.

<sup>6</sup> Journal of the Episcopal Church, 1859, p. 31.

<sup>7</sup> Journal of the Episcopal Church, 1868, pp. 41-42.

<sup>8</sup> Journal of the Episcopal Church, 1888, pp. 106-107.

<sup>9</sup> St. Mary's Chapel Parish Records, 1881-1901, p. 95.

<sup>10</sup> Journal of the Episcopal Church, 1891, p. 117; 1892, p. 115.

<sup>11</sup> Browning, Information, second report, p. 8; Durham Sun, June 3, 1975.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Browning, Hugh Conway (compiler). Information Relating to St. Mary's Chapel. Unpublished.  
Cheshire, Joseph Blount (ed.). Sketches of Church History in North Carolina. Wilmington:  
William L. DeRosset, Jr., 1892.  
Durham Sun. June 3, 1975.  
Journal of the Annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in North Carolina.  
Various Publishers: 1842-1859, 1868, 1880-1905.  
Lefler, Hugh & Wager, Paul (ed.). Orange County, 1752-1952. Chapel Hill: No publisher, 1952

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 5 acres (see attached map)

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 680980 3998620  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C         

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Description prepared by Catherine W. Bishir, Head, Survey & Planning Branch  
Significance prepared by Jim Sumner, Researcher

ORGANIZATION Division of Archives and History

DATE

STREET & NUMBER 109 East Jones Street

TELEPHONE

733-4763

CITY OR TOWN Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina 27611

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

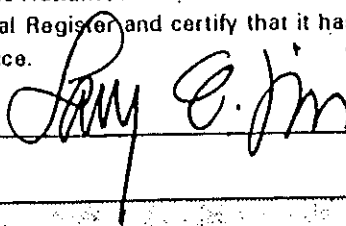
NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

DATE March 8, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

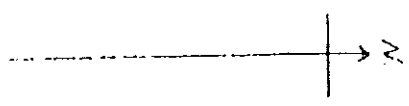
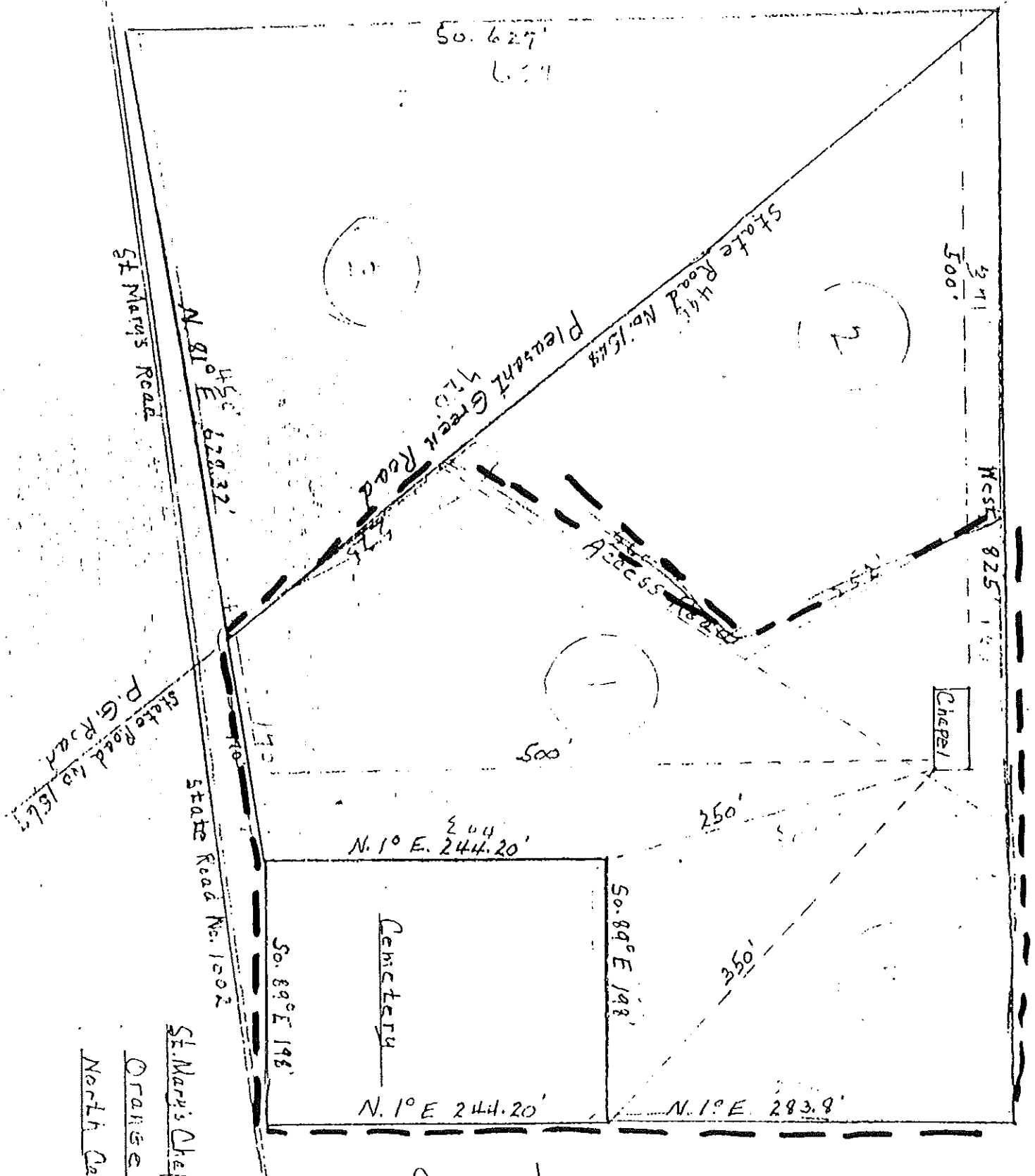
## St. Mary's Chapel---Description

St. Mary's Chapel is located on a gentle hill site in a rolling rural section of Piedmont Orange County, its isolated agrarian setting disturbed only by the presence of a nearby school<sup>complex</sup>. Down the hill, within sight of the church, is the walled cemetery, originally the site of the eighteenth century predecessor of the chapel, now filled with graves and shaded by old trees. *The wall dates from the 18<sup>th</sup> C.*<sup>1</sup>

The chapel is a small, unpretentious, but carefully finished brick structure in the Gothic Revival style. Although simple Gothic Revival country churches are relatively common in the state, this is one of the few rural brick examples. The simplicity and small scale of the church, together with the substantialness of its materials and consistency of Gothic detail contribute to its pastoral charm, which is highly evocative of the origins of the Gothic chapel mode.

The rectangular building is three bays wide and three longer bays deep, with the entrance in the main gable end. To the rear is a gable-roof apse and on the south side of it, at right angles to it, a gable-roof extension of similar scale, an *entrance to the small sacristy*. Walls are of locally made brick, typically measuring about 2 3/4 inches by 8 inches. They are laid in common bond with Flemish variation. The wall surfaces are enlivened in highly plastic fashion: the bays are separated by brick buttresses, and within each bay, a recessed lancet panel framed by soldiers contains the pointed-arched window or door opening. The exterior detail is otherwise quite simple: the roofline is quiet, with a narrow molded cornice flush with the wall, which returns slightly into the gable ends--a treatment used on the main block and on the rear extensions. Narrow slits occur in the foundation wall. The gable end carries a wooden cross.

Windows are filled with double-hung Gothic sash, with sixteen-over-sixteen sash surmounted by simple tracery. The chancel window in the apse is a more ambitious double Gothic one. The front door is a double one with six horizontal panels per leaf, and a pair of half-arched panels fill the tympanum. The rear side door is similarly



1 inch = 100 feet

2000

40,000 = 2000

6 p p u e y  
5 0 0 0 0

St. Mary's Chapel property

Orange County

North Carolina

treated but is a single leaf and narrower.

The interior, which is light and spacious, continues the simplicity and essential Gothic character of the exterior. It is one large uninterrupted space except for the apse, which is framed by a broad pointed arch, and the small <sup>sanctuary</sup> ~~room~~ to the side of it. Walls are plastered ~~and undecorated~~, and the dark, handsome wooden ceiling, open in <sup>to the</sup> the gable shape of the roof, is articulated with a simple geometry of intersecting timbers, rather slender, which cross at a kingpost at the apex. The window frames and low, sheathed wainscot are also of dark wood, producing a strong and vivid impact against the white plaster. The finish, along with the simple furnishings, are all original or in character with the original, creating an interior ~~most~~ evocative of the original appearance of the antebellum church.

Pews are very plain wooden ones, with gracefully curved sides and slatted backs. They are arranged flanking a central aisle, with a few rows facing inward to create the choir. The altar rail is a simple sawn Gothic arcade, and the pulpit is equally unpretentious, with rectangular elements and simple moldings. A folding chair with Gothic finial complements the furnishings. A wonderful feature of the interior is the stove, perhaps original---labeled Forest Rose No. 7, patented 1855. It is a metal stove of ornate design featuring cabriole <sup>like legs</sup> feet and high relief decoration with volutes and full-blown roses.

At present the chapel is being renovated by a committee long devoted to the preservation of the building. <sup>Its</sup> ~~Their~~ intention is to repair as needed while preserving the essential and original elements of the chapel.

1. Hillsborough Recorder, Oct 14, 1836 - "The Commissioners let bids for building of a stone wall ~~around~~ <sup>around</sup> graveyard at St. Mary's." (Browning, "Information," see section 8.)

## St. Mary's Chapel---Significance

St. Mary's Chapel is a small, rural Gothic Revival church whose unpretentious, pastoral character and unaltered Gothic detail contribute to its charm. It is the successor to one of Orange County's three eighteenth century Anglican churches, which stood nearby. The chapel, built in <sup>1859</sup>~~1858~~ for a small parish, served the local plantation community; in recent years it has been the scene of an annual homecoming, and its restoration is underway.

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St. Mary's is an Episcopal chapel located approximately six miles northeast of Hillsborough in rural Orange County. The congregation was established <sup>by</sup>~~in~~ the Church of England sometime in the late 1750s by the Reverend George Micklejohn. St. Mary's was one of three Anglican churches in pre-Revolutionary Orange County.<sup>1</sup>

Following the Revolution, the Church of England was prostrate<sup>2</sup> in North Carolina, and St. Mary's was inactive. The Anglican Church was slowly <sup>re-established</sup>~~re-established~~ as the Protestant Episcopal Church. The Diocese of North Carolina was established in 1817, with three clergymen and fewer than 200 communicants. St. Mary's was admitted to the convention in 1819. It had a small congregation and was forced to share a rector with the larger St. Matthew's Church of Hillsborough.<sup>2</sup> An examination of its reports to the annual conventions of the Diocese reveals that, in the two decades preceding the Civil War, St. Mary's usually had between five and seven communicants.<sup>3</sup>

The original church building was replaced by the present chapel in 1859 on a 9 9/16-acre tract purchased from Ellen Bain, adjacent to the original tract.<sup>4</sup> The church was consecrated November 25, 1859 by Bishop Thomas Atkinson.<sup>5</sup> The congregation reported that the "neat, brick church" had cost \$2,000.<sup>6</sup> The disruption caused by the Civil War was so severe that in 1868 St. Mary's was declared to be no longer entitled to representation in the annual convention of the Diocese due to failure to maintain its organization.<sup>7</sup>

This status remained unchanged until 1888 when St. Mary's was re-organized as a

Chapel of St. Mary's was established in 1859. It was the first of three Anglican churches in pre-Revolutionary Orange County.

A main road leading east out of Hillsborough. The chapel.

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## APPENDIX B

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# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Jacob Jackson Farm  
other names/site number Maple Hill

## 2. Location

street & number S.R. 1002, .4 mile west of S R 1538 ☐ not for publication  
city or town Hillsborough ☐ vicinity  
state North Carolina code NC county Orange code 135 zip code 27278

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination  
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of  
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William S. King SHPO 1-28-94  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

JAN LADD 732-6517  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
LANRA

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register  
☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register

☐ removed from the National  
Register

☐ other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONS INCLUDE 1-Story Bilobed wing implent  
+ 1 1/2 story GABLE ROOFED FRONT WING 416  
SASA CECAN SHAKE ROOF.

Name of Property

County and State

**5. Classification****Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)  
☒ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	2	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
3	2	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Agricultural/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding

Agricultural/Subsistence: agricultural field

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Agricultural/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding

**7. Description****Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Greek Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof shake

other stone

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Agriculture

Period of Significance

ca. 1820-1940

Significant Dates

ca. 1820

ca. 1855

ca. 1940

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Acreage of Property 63.15

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

☒ See continuation sheet

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Betsy Gohdes-Baten
------------	--------------------

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 10/4/93

street & number 2737 Circle Drive telephone 919/489-6368

city or town Durham state NC zip code 27705

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

## Continuation Sheets

## Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

## Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Marie B. Hollandsworth/Ann H. Myers

street & number 805 Purdue Street telephone 919/867-1547

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27609

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.